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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/966,710	09/28/2001	Lynn A. Frisco	38949/247779	6441

7590 01/06/2005

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EXAMINER
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MEUCCI, MICHAEL D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2142

DATE MAILED: 01/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/966,710

**Applicant(s)**

FRISCO ET AL.

**Examiner**

Michael D Meucci

**Art Unit**

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 September 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-64 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-64 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 September 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☒ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                    | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Oath/Declaration***

1. The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because: the phrase --signing for Allison B. Shue as the legal representative-- should be inserted after Jeffrey Shue's signature.

### ***Specification***

2. Claim 48 objected to because of the following informalities: Typographical error on line 2 of the claim. Replace "storea" with --store a--. Appropriate correction is required. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

3. The claims are objected to because of the following informalities: The phrase --What is claimed is-- should appear before the claims. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which

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said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-3, 6-7, 10-12, 15-19, 22-23, 26-28, 31-33, 35-36, 41-45, 53-54, 57-58, 61, and 63-64 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Srinivasan (U.S. 5,548,506) in view of White et al. (U.S. 5,446,895) hereinafter referred to as White, and Bentley et al. (U.S. 6,341,291 B1) hereinafter referred to as Bentley.

a. As per claims 1, 17, 33, and 53, Srinivasan teaches: at least one template for customized use by each of the organizations in defining activities related to the project (abstract and line 59 of column 2 through line 46 of column 3); the template adapted to receive a list of activities related to the project from each organization (lines 63-67 of column 2); tracking functionality adapted to track the progress of the activities (abstract, lines 35-39 of column 1, and lines 63-67 of column 2); merging functionality adapted to cross reference related activities between the organizations allowing the organizations to share information regarding project activities (lines 60-64 of column 3); and presentation/interaction functionality adapted to permit each organization to view and access shared information related to project activities (abstract and line 65 of column 5 through line 35 of column 6).

Srinivasan fails to teach: a database adapted to receive and store each organization's list of activities in organization specific nomenclature. However, White discloses: "The system administrator defines the present invention's repository to reflect an organization's terminology," (lines 22-24 of column 25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have the database adapted to receive and store each organization's list of activities in organization specific nomenclature. "The system administrator defined repositories and a short description are included herein.

Application attributes 19.52 are defined application criteria that are rated by application managers to characterize their applications. Environment 19.40 includes work environment factors that can be selected by application and project managers to characterize working conditions of applications and projects," (lines 24-31 of column 25 in White). It is for this reason that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to have the database adapted to receive and store each organization's list of activities in organization specific nomenclature in the system as taught by Srinivasan.

Srinivasan fails to teach: cross referencing related activities between the organizations using the organization specific nomenclature. However, Bentley discloses: "After using a file-oriented tool to edit the design file, the user may commit the transaction, posting his changes to the shared project information databank on the server," (lines 65-67 of column 11).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to cross reference related activities between the organizations using the organization specific nomenclature. "Project server performs an incremental import, analyzing the changes to the design file. The only possibilities are that elements have been changed, deleted, or added or copied," (lines 2-5 of column 12 in Bentley); and "At this point the wrapping

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schemas can apply custom merge logic to resolve apparent conflicts. For example, if two users have changed two different aspects of the same component, then the schema may be able to merge them. This may happen frequently in the case of attribute data attached to elements and maintained by vertical applications. Wrapping schemas specific to these applications can be added to ProjectBank to handle these cases," (line 66 of column 12 through line 7 of column 13 in Bentley). It is for this reason that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to cross reference related activities between the organizations using the organization specific nomenclature in the system as taught by Srinivasan.

b. As per claims 2, 18, and 63, Srinivasan teaches: the system is adapted to allow each of the organizations to manage a plurality of projects (abstract). Similarly, as per claim 35, Srinivasan teaches: allowing each organization to access a plurality of templates to initiate and manage a plurality of projects (abstract, lines 6-44 of column 7, Fig. 3, and Fig. 4).

c. As per claims 3, 19, 36, and 54, Srinivasan teaches: the system is adapted to allow the organizations to select a pre-existing template for a new project (abstract, lines 6-44 of column 7, Fig. 3, and Fig. 4).

d. As per claims 6, 22, and 57 Srinivasan teaches: functionality adapted to allow each organization to input a list of users, each user on the list of users capable of accessing the database for the project (lines 21-25 of column 7).

e. As per claims 7, 23, and 58, Srinivasan teaches: a notification functionality adapted to send email messages to each of the users (abstract, lines 19-25 of column 2, lines 59-67 of column 2, and lines 10-15 of column 5).

f. As per claims 10 and 26, Srinivasan teaches: functionality is adapted to allow each organization to input business rules related to the project (line 59 of column 2 through line 46 of column 3 and line 64 of column 6 through line 24 of column 8).

g. As per claims 11 and 27, Srinivasan teaches: the business rules comprise security information, notification rules, standard forms, and default values, (abstract, lines 33-38 of column 3, lines 6-44 of column 7, Fig. 3, and Fig. 4).

h. As per claims 12 and 28, Srinivasan teaches: a security functionality adapted to allow organizations to deny at least one user access to information related to at least one activity (lines 26-38 of column 3 and lines 35-44 of column 7).

i. As per claims 15 and 31, Srinivasan teaches: providing reporting to each organization of project information (abstract and lines 42-50 of column 1).

Srinivasan fails to teach: project information is in each organization's specific nomenclature. However, Bentley discloses: "After using a file-oriented tool to edit the design file, the user may commit the transaction, posting his changes to the shared project information databank on the server," (lines 65-67 of column 11).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to provide reports using each organization's specific nomenclature. "Project server performs an incremental import, analyzing the changes to the design file. The only possibilities are that elements have been changed, deleted, or added or copied," (lines 2-5 of column 12 in Bentley); and "At this point the wrapping schemas can apply custom merge logic to resolve apparent conflicts. For example, if two users have changed two different aspects of the same component, then the schema may be able to merge them. This may happen frequently in the case of attribute data attached to elements and maintained by vertical applications. Wrapping schemas specific to these applications can be added to ProjectBank to the handle these cases," (line 66 of column 12 through line 7 of column 13 in Bentley). It is for this reason that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to provide reports using each organization's specific nomenclature in the system as taught by Srinivasan.

j. As per claims 16 and 32, Srinivasan teaches: processing functionality is adapted to cooperate with the notification functionality and the merging functionality to provide visibility and accessibility to each organization of related activities in a plurality of projects (lines 9-25 of column 3).

k. As per claims 41 and 61, Srinivasan teaches: functionality is adapted to allow each organization to input business rules related to the project (line 59 of column 2 through line 46 of column 3 and line 64 of column 6 through



line 24 of column 8); and the business rules are stored in the database (abstract and lines 17-25 of column 2).

l. As per claims 42-45, Srinivasan teaches: the business rules comprise security information, notification rules, standard forms, and default values, (abstract, lines 33-38 of column 3, lines 6-44 of column 7, Fig. 3, and Fig. 4).

m. As per claim 64, Srinivasan teaches: allowing each organization to view and access information relating to activities in a plurality of projects, (lines 9-25 of column 3).

Srinivasan fails to teach: the information is provided in organization specific nomenclature. However, Bentley discloses: "After using a file-oriented tool to edit the design file, the user may commit the transaction, posting his changes to the shared project information databank on the server," (lines 65-67 of column 11).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to allow each organization to view and access information relating to activities in a plurality of projects, with the information provided in each organization's specific nomenclature. "Project server performs an incremental import, analyzing the changes to the design file. The only possibilities are that elements have been changed, deleted, or added or copied," (lines 2-5 of column 12 in Bentley); and "At this point the wrapping schemas can apply custom merge logic to resolve apparent conflicts. For example, if two users have changed two different aspects of the same component, then the schema

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may be able to merge them. This may happen frequently in the case of attribute data attached to elements and maintained by vertical applications. Wrapping schemas specific to these applications can be added to ProjectBank to the handle these cases," (line 66 of column 12 through line 7 of column 13 in Bentley). It is for this reason that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to allow each organization to view and access information relating to activities in a plurality of projects, with the information provided in each organization's specific nomenclature the system as taught by Srinivasan.

6. Claims 4-5, 20-21, 34, 37-39, 46, 51-52, and 55-56 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Srinivasan in view of White and Bentley as applied to claims 1 (claims 4-5), 17 (claims 20-21), 33 (claims 34, 37-40, and 46-52) and 53 (claims 55-56) respectively, further in view of Official Notice.

a. As per claims 4, 20, and 55, Srinivasan fails to teach: permitting the organizations to input target completion dates for the activities. Official Notice is taken of functionality adapted to permit the organizations to input target completion dates for the activities. Srinivasan teaches computing the target completion date (lines 39-40 of column 7 in Srinivasan). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to include functionality that permits the organizations to input target completion dates for the activities if it can automatically calculate the target completion date. It is for this reason that one of

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ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to permit the organizations to input target completion dates for the activities in the system as taught by Srinivasan.

b. As per claims 5, 21, 34, and 56, Srinivasan teaches: processing functionality adapted to calculate the target completion dates for the activities (lines 35-44 of column 7). Similarly, as per claim 34, Official Notice taken of allowing input of the target completion date (see rejection of claims 4, 20, and 55 above).

c. As per claim 37, Srinivasan teaches: functionality adapted to allow each organization to input a list of users, each user on the list of users capable of accessing the database for the project (lines 21-25 of column 7).

d. As per claim 38, Srinivasan teaches: a notification functionality adapted to send email messages to each of the users (abstract, lines 19-25 of column 2, lines 59-67 of column 2, and lines 10-15 of column 5).

e. As per claim 39, Srinivasan fails to teach: combining the messages into a newsletter for sending to the users. Official notice is taken of combining the messages into a newsletter for sending to the users. Combining electronic messages is no different from combining messages on paper to produce a handwritten newsletter. Only the medium has changed. It is for this reason that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to combine the messages into a newsletter for sending to the users in the system as taught by Srinivasan.

f. As per claim 46, Srinivasan teaches: a security functionality adapted to allow organizations to deny at least one user access to information related to at least one activity (lines 26-38 of column 3 and lines 35-44 of column 7).

g. As per claim 51, Srinivasan teaches: providing reporting to each organization of project information (abstract and lines 42-50 of column 1).

Srinivasan fails to teach: project information is in each organization's specific nomenclature. However, Bentley discloses: "After using a file-oriented tool to edit the design file, the user may commit the transaction, posting his changes to the shared project information databank on the server," (lines 65-67 of column 11).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to provide reports using each organization's specific nomenclature. "Project server performs an incremental import, analyzing the changes to the design file. The only possibilities are that elements have been changed, deleted, or added or copied," (lines 2-5 of column 12 in Bentley); and "At this point the wrapping schemas can apply custom merge logic to resolve apparent conflicts. For example, if two users have changed two different aspects of the same component, then the schema may be able to merge them. This may happen frequently in the case of attribute data attached to elements and maintained by vertical applications. Wrapping schemas specific to these applications can be added to ProjectBank to the handle these cases," (line 66 of column 12 through line 7 of column 13 in Bentley). It is for this reason that one of

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ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to provide reports using each organization's specific nomenclature in the system as taught by Srinivasan.

h. As per claim 52, Srinivasan teaches: processing functionality is adapted to cooperate with the notification functionality and the merging functionality to provide visibility and accessibility to each organization of related activities in a plurality of projects (lines 9-25 of column 3).

7. Claims 8, 24, and 59 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Srinivasan in view of White and Bentley as applied to claims 7, 23, and 58 respectively above, further in view of Official Notice.

As per claims 8, 24, and 59, Srinivasan fails to teach: combining the messages into a newsletter for sending to the users. Official notice is taken of combining the messages into a newsletter for sending to the users. Combining electronic messages is no different from combining messages on paper to produce a handwritten newsletter. Only the medium has changed. It is for this reason that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to combine the messages into a newsletter for sending to the users in the system as taught by Srinivasan.

8. Claims 9, 25, 40, and 60 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Srinivasan in view of White and Bentley as applied to claims 7,

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23, 38, and 58 respectively above, further in view of Ambler et al. (U.S. 6,393,456 B1) hereinafter referred to as Ambler.

Srinivasan fails to teach: notification functionality is adapted to allow each user to send email messages to any other user. However, Ambler discloses: "When e-mail messaging compatibility is achieved, then each user can use his respective e-mail system to enable a computer network to send messages to other users with compatibility so that the recipient user can understand the message," (lines 35-38 of column 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have the notification functionality adapted to allow each user to send email messages to any other user. "With the increasing use of electronic mail or e-mail messaging on the Internet, compatibility of telecommunication systems becomes increasingly important as different users in different countries using different computers and different software have a need to communicate," (lines 31-35 of column 3 in Ambler). It is for this reason that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to have the notification functionality adapted to allow each user to send email messages to any other user in the system as taught by Srinivasan.

9. Claims 13-14 and 29-30 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Srinivasan in view of White and Bentley as applied to claims 12 and 28 respectively above, further in view of Bradley et al. (U.S. 6,584,507 B1) hereinafter referred to as Bradley.

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Srinivasan fails to teach: the system is adapted for use by third parties to assist the organizations in completing activities; and the database is adapted to receive and store a third party list of activities. However, Bradley discloses: "There is also a need for a method or mechanism that enables a third party to create and store a connection between the principal network management application and the Web-based external application, in which the connection continues to be valid even if the underlying registry syntax and structure changes," (lines 29-34 of column 2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have the system is adapted for use by third parties to assist the organizations in completing activities; and have the database adapted to receive and store a third party list of activities. "There is also a need for a method or mechanism that enables such connections to be imported into or exported from the principal network management system, and generally shared across multiple installations," (lines 35-38 of column 2 in Bradley). It is for this reason that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to have the system is adapted for use by third parties to assist the organizations in completing activities and have the database adapted to receive and store a third party list of activities in the system as taught by Srinivasan.

10. Claims 47-48 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Srinivasan in view of White, Bentley, and Official Notice as applied to claim 46

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above, further in view of Bradley et al. (U.S. 6,584,507 B1) hereinafter referred to as Bradley.

Srinivasan fails to teach: the system is adapted for use by third parties to assist the organizations in completing activities; and the database is adapted to receive and store a third party list of activities. However, Bradley discloses: "There is also a need for a method or mechanism that enables a third party to create and store a connection between the principal network management application and the Web-based external application, in which the connection continues to be valid even if the underlying registry syntax and structure changes," (lines 29-34 of column 2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have the system is adapted for use by third parties to assist the organizations in completing activities; and have the database adapted to receive and store a third party list of activities. "There is also a need for a method or mechanism that enables such connections to be imported into or exported from the principal network management system, and generally shared across multiple installations," (lines 35-38 of column 2 in Bradley). It is for this reason that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to have the system is adapted for use by third parties to assist the organizations in completing activities and have the database adapted to receive and store a third party list of activities in the system as taught by Srinivasan.



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11. Claims 49-50 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Srinivasan in view of White, Bentley, and Official Notice as applied to claim 37 above, further in view of Wolters, Jr. et al. (U.S. 6,584,507 B1) hereinafter referred to as Wolters.

Srinivasan fails to teach: searching functionality adapted to allow users to enter a search query in order to access information stored within the system; and the searching functionality allows users to search documents stored in the database. However, Wolters discloses: "The Search menu provides the functions to filter and select both checklist items and attachments (reference and project files)," (lines 13-15 of column 6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have searching functionality adapted to allow users to enter a search query in order to access information stored within the system; and the searching functionality allows users to search documents stored in the database. The search simply provides functionality to filter and select items from the group. It is for this reason that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to have searching functionality adapted to allow users to enter a search query in order to access information stored within the system; and the searching functionality allows users to search documents stored in the database in the system as taught by Srinivasan.

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12. Claim 62 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Srinivasan in view of White and Bentley as applied to claim 53 above, further in view of Wolters, Jr. et al. (U.S. 6,584,507 B1) hereinafter referred to as Wolters.

Srinivasan fails to teach: searching functionality adapted to allow users to enter a search query in order to access information stored within the system; and the searching functionality allows users to search documents stored in the database. However, Wolters discloses: "The Search menu provides the functions to filter and select both checklist items and attachments (reference and project files)," (lines 13-15 of column 6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have searching functionality adapted to allow users to enter a search query in order to access information stored within the system; and the searching functionality allows users to search documents stored in the database. The search simply provides functionality to filter and select items from the group. It is for this reason that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to have searching functionality adapted to allow users to enter a search query in order to access information stored within the system; and the searching functionality allows users to search documents stored in the database in the system as taught by Srinivasan.

### ***Conclusion***

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Cohen et al. (U.S. 5,590,319) discloses query processor for parallel processing in homogeneous and heterogeneous databases.

Arumainayagam et al. (U.S. 5,659,599) discloses voice mail network and networking method.

Soni et al. (U.S. 5,860,007) discloses automated software modification facilitator.

Owens et al. (U.S. 6,023,700) discloses electronic mail distribution system for integrated electronic communication.

Kleinerman (U.S. 6,041,365) discloses apparatus and method for high performance remote application gateway servers.

Tatham et al. (U.S. 6,223,177 B1) discloses network based groupware system.

Hartmann et al. (U.S. 6,377,955 B1) discloses method and apparatus for generating user-specified reports from RADIUS information.

Gundewar et al. (U.S. 6,381,610 B1) discloses system and method for implementing project procedures.

Lung et al. (U.S. 6,532,230 B1) discloses mixed-media communication apparatus and method.

Auerbach et al. (U.S. 6,549,937 B1) discloses system and method for multi-protocol communication in a computer network.

Peterson et al. (U.S. 6,598,015 B1) discloses context based computer-assisted language translation.

Peterson (U.S. 6,643,656 B2) discloses computerized information retrieval system.

Srinivasan (US RE38,633 E) discloses automated, electronic network based, project management server system.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Meucci at (571) 272-3892. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Harvey, can be reached at (571) 272-3896. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [michael.meucci@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

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published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

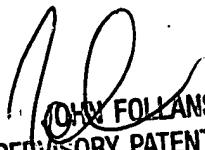
Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR

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[direct.uspto.gov](http://pair-direct.uspto.gov). Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-

free).

  
JOHN FOLLANSBEE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100